

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting
February 12, 2009 - **7:00 pm**
Solid Waste District Board Room - County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Charles Lapp-Chairman, Karl Schrade, Tom Sands, Dave Hilde, Mike Schlegel

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Public Work Director Dave Prunty, Operations Manager Guy Foy, Administrative Assistant Mike Pence, Recording Secretaries Patti Vernarsky & Karen Rogers

Guest Speaker: Ryan Mitchell

Public Attendees: None

2. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks.

3. Approval of the Board Minutes

Karl Schrade moves to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2009 meeting, Mike Schlegel seconds the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

4. Action Agenda

a. Discussion and Approval of Amended Committee By-Laws

Dave Prunty explained the change in the by-laws that the meetings are to be once a month as noted on page 2 Article 5 #1, to only the second Thursday's of the month, and the other change noted is Tom Sand's name for District 2.

Dave Hilde moves to approve the changes in the by-laws as noted, Karl Schrade seconds the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

5 Directors Report

a. Roadway Management Plan Phase II Proposal with Ryan from Peccia

Dave Prunty stated that Ryan from Peccia is here to explain Phase 2 of the maintenance plan which is the 2 year work plan for roadway maintenance and improvements. There had been

discussion as to whether the plan should be a five year or a two year, and the decision was for a two year.

Ryan explained the county would need to go out and survey the roads to re-rank and reclassify them. He explained this will determine how much the improvements will cost and what is doable with the budget. He continued that the consultant would not need to be hired once the program is in place. He explained that one - four hour meeting to outline the program, and then the county staff would take over saving the county with expenditures.

Ryan started his explanation of the scope of services and what is hoped to be accomplished. He explained that all the roadways will need to be ranked for both maintenance and improvements. He explained the roadways will be rated, and then depending on the number the road is rated as to whether the road will be placed in the improvements category or the maintenance category. This will help make the determination on picking Road A over Road B.

He explained there will be two different chapters within the plan, one for maintenance and one for improvements. He stated after the preliminary rating, the roads will be sorted with the scores from highest to lowest and include cost estimate as to what improvements the road will need. The cost estimates will be based on an average per mile.

Karl Schrade asked how much money will be needed to accomplish this, and would there be the determination of what is needed to be done. Ryan stated yes that this has already been done. He stated the county budget would have to be reviewed as to what is needed to accomplish everything.

Dave Prunty stated possibly shifting money to accomplish the work, by funneling money into the cost center where it is needed. Dave Hilde asked if the end of June would be better to determine this. Dave Prunty replied yes, the county will have a better idea on the funding. Charles Lapp asked if a decision had been made as to where the money goes and the prioritization. Dave Prunty stated he would like to see more gravel road maintenance than had been in the past. He stated the money has been funneled into paving for years, this needs to be reversed to get caught back up on the gravel road. Ryan's summary showed 200 miles of gravel roads that are poor or failed, while only 21 miles of paved roads are in the poor or failed category.

Ryan stated once the list is compiled for improvements there may not be much on paved road except the need for maintenance while gravel roads would need more in the way of improvements. He stated that maintenance should still be done on paved roads to keep them from deteriorating. He said there will be two plans for each category of road, paved and gravel. He stated the county staff would have to keep up with the scoring of roadways. Dave Hilde asked if anyone is capable of accomplishing this task. Dave Prunty replied that the county will use a consultant to train our people. Ryan stated the county can enter in the values and keep up with the rating which will reduce costs.

Karl Schrade asked what if the lower 50 percent of roads were done, but without any money can't get to them anyway. Ryan stated this is where we will look at different brackets in each for revision, but all roads still need to be rated.

Karl Schrade asked about the upper 50 roads being in pretty good shape. Dave Hilde asked if these would still have to be analyzed. Ryan explained that if a paved road is in the 5 to 7 rating it would need maintenance. Roads rated at 8, 9, or 10 not as important. Gravel roads in 4 or 5 category are the same. While paved roads with a 1 to 4 rating need to be focused on and gravel roads with 1 to 3 rated need improvements.

Charles Lapp asked how this is accomplished with a few of the other roads at the bottom such as Caroline Point Road which is only eight feet wide. Ryan replied by adding a limit on it to make it simpler, such as having a minimum ADT. Dave Prunty stated adding a traffic count category is very important.

Further discussion was held that this maintenance and improvement plan needs to proceed.

b. Resource Advisory Committee (Forest Service) North Fork Rd Camas to Polebridge

Dave Prunty explained this is program the Forest Service has designed to help with different types of improvements in forested areas. Guy Foy explained the county has been doing this program for a few years, receiving funds to help improve portions of the North Fork Road and Star Meadows Road. He continued that this year the county is requesting funds to improve the approximate ten miles from Camas Road to Polebridge on the North Fork Road plus funding for overlaying approximately 7 miles of Star Meadows Road. Karl Schrade asked if Glacier Park would contribute money for crushing. Dave Prunty replied there was a meeting with the park services and the answer is no, they can't give money outside of the park jurisdiction.

Questions were asked about the specifications of the gravel, the road base and the drainage. Dave Prunty replied the base is good and so is the drainage, there are some soft spots that will need work.

c. Commissioners Response to RAC Recommendations

2. *Dust Abatement*

A. *Amend Resolution 1374 for enforcement of commercial vehicles*

Charles Lapp asked about the commercial hauling on gravel roads and how it will affect people like Tom Gorton on Mennonite Church Road with the enforcement of the resolution. Dave Prunty stated he had been pushing Resolution 1374 updated as to a way to enforce it. He found out from the County Attorney's office that it had been recommended not to pass this resolution as the M.C.A. does not allow counties to have such a rule. He stated there is a meeting next week on Resolution 1374 there isn't anything for us to do to be able to enforce the dust control. He stated that basically the county does not have any teeth to enforce this resolution, and changes would need to be made at the legislative level through the M.C.A. Charles Lapp stated the resolution should be gotten rid of then. Mike Schlegel asked if the dust control could be enforced by the speed limits. Dave Prunty stated the county can not enforce the 20 MPH advised speed limits. He stated those are just advisory signs and not regulatory.

2. *Dust Abatement*
- C. *Increase water availability*

Charles Lapp spoke with the DNRC about making arrangements to work with landowners to lease water rights, in order for the county to be able to get more water for road work.

Dave Prunty stated the county had been getting water from FWP fishing access, but they cut us off because the county did not have any water rights. He continued that the county is working on getting more water rights in different areas.

3. *Paved Road*
- A. *Implementing a paving and overlay prioritization program*

Dave Prunty stated this is being done with Ryan's program. Charles and Mike Schlegel are working on a new bill for the legislature for more funding for road improvements.

- B. *Consider a pilot project to privatize portions of maintenance on paved roads*

Charles Lapp asked if the pilot project was for chip sealing, crack sealing, and that type of maintenance. Mike Schlegel stated the county needs to check with other counties if they are doing any privatization. Dave Hilde stated there aren't any other counties doing this.

Mike Pence stated the county is thinking of privatizing the whole dust palliative program this summer, including the watering and grading. Mike Schlegel asked how is the county going to monitor the specification to keep crown in road. Charles Lapp asked if there will be one appointed contractor. Dave Prunty stated the bids will be split, one for mag chloride and one for the black oil. Mike Schlegel asked what if people do not want black oil. Charles Lapp stated it would depend on the type of road being applied to.

Mike Schlegel asked what is in the specifications should the oil fail. Dave Prunty stated the contractor would honor reapplication of oil if the product does not last season. Mike Schlegel stated his concerns due to the cost of black oil being so much higher. Dave Prunty stated that is the point to split the bids for black oil and mag chloride and who will spend the money. He stated there is a choice on the application. Karl Schrade asked what if the dust palliative fails because of the road didn't qualify. Mike Schlegel asked who is going to make that decision if a road doesn't qualify. Mike Pence replied if the county says mag won't work with the road.

Dave Hilde asked why not put the bid into in one. Mike Schlegel asked about putting the bids out in districts. Dave Prunty replied it can be done but then the county is managing more people. Dave Hilde asked what if the contractor doesn't bid the black oil. Dave Prunty stated that can be split into two areas, by the product being bid. Karl Schrade asked if the county would have to put the proper material down for the mag chloride.

4. *Quality Control Program*

Mike Schlegel asked how the county was doing with the quality control program. Dave Prunty stated there has been training with Steve Monlux. He continued that the county has installed slope meters for all graders. There has been discussion with the grader operators on the crowning and ditches of the roads. He stated he was pleased the discussion was taken to heart and the roads are in a lot better shape. Guy Foy stated the county had three days of training for the crowning and ditches. Mike Schlegel asked how receptive did the operators take it. Guy replied the operators were pretty good, some are putting in more slope than looking what we are looking for, but they are working on it. Dave Prunty stated he has heard most of the operators say get them some crush and they will give us a crown. He felt this is a valid statement with the gravel roads the county currently has.

It was noted to start on recommendation 5. Internal Auditing System at the next meeting.

6. Comments from Committee Members

Dave Hilde and Mike Schlegel asked if they could review the union contracts.

Comments were made about the information on the stimulus and what is going to be done with it.

7. Comments from Public (15 Minutes Maximum)

No public comment

8. Adjournment

**Karl Schrade made the motion to adjourn, Mike Schlegel seconded, motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.**